

## SENATE—Monday, February 26, 2001

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer.

Majestic God, Creator of many different races and colors in the human family, we ask for love as inclusive as Your love and attitudes as free of prejudice as You have shown in Your care for all people.

This month as we gratefully recognize the importance of African Americans in our history, remind us of the truth in Dr. Martin Luther King's words that "the content of our character" is the highest goal we can achieve. So many outstanding black Americans have risen to prominence in our Nation because of the content of their character.

Along with Dr. King, we thank you for Phillis Wheatley, who in the 18th century at a very young age achieved international fame as the first black woman poet. We also remember Richard Allen, who at the dawning of the 19th century mobilized the black community in Philadelphia and formed the first independent black denomination.

As we work today, may these principled Americans be our examples. Let our words, thoughts, and actions reflect the content of Your character. Thank You for being our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON KYL, a Senator from the State of Arizona, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. ALLEN, is recognized to read Washington's Farewell Address.

(Mr. KYL assumed the chair.)

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, it is my honor to read George Washington's Farewell Address. As a preface to reading this address, I would

like to make a few remarks so that everyone gets the context of the Farewell Address of George Washington.

In September of 1796, worn out by the burdens of the Presidency and attacks of political foes, George Washington announced his decision not to seek a third term. A student of history will see that Alexander Hamilton and James Madison left their fingerprints in helping President Washington compose this Farewell Address which is his political testament to the Nation.

The Farewell Address, which was designed to inspire and guide future generations, set forth Washington's defense of his administration's record and embodied a classic statement of Federalist doctrine.

Washington's principal concern was for the safety of the 8-year-old Constitution, and he believed the stability of the Republic was threatened by the forces of geographical sectionalism, political factionalism, and interference by foreign powers in the Nation's domestic affairs.

George Washington did not publicly deliver his Farewell Address. It first appeared on September 19, 1796, in the Philadelphia Daily American Advertiser and then in papers throughout our country.

On to the address entitled "Washington's Farewell Address."

Mr. ALLEN, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

*To the people of the United States.*

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your

suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience, in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and, every day, the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my political life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to